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The authorship of *Parus ater hibernicus*

by Edward C. Dickinson & Paul Milne

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Reference to checklists such as Kennedy *et al.* (1954) and Dickinson (2003) will supply Ogilvie-Grant as the author of *Parus ater hibernicus* (Irish Coal Tit). However, all these listings are rooted in a historical objection to recognising that priority can be accorded to names proposed in newspapers. Reference to Witherby *et al.* (1938) will show, correctly, that Ogilvie-Grant published on 31 December 1910 in this Bulletin, but that the name had appeared three days earlier in the *Daily Mail*.

The reason the newspaper was not accorded priority was not stated. It was necessary, therefore, to verify that the description provided in the *Daily Mail* article was sufficient for the purpose of establishing authorship. With the kind permission of the *Daily Mail* and General Trust we reproduce below the brief note that appeared.

NEW BRITISH BIRD

Yellow Coal-Tit found in Sligo

Mr. Collingwood Ingram, a well-known naturalist, has discovered in the pine woods of County Sligo, Ireland, an entirely new indigenous bird to be added to the list of British birds. Such an event has not occurred for nearly fifty years.

The new bird is allied to the coal-tit (*Parus ater*), which, although it is distributed throughout the world in varied forms, in no instance has a distinctive variation so pronounced as in the new species, in which the parts of the plumage that in all other coal-tits are pure white assume a clear sulphurous yellow hue. These parts are the cheeks and a spot on the back of the neck.

Mr. Louis Wain, who has given *The Daily Mail* particulars of the new bird on the authority of Sir William Ingram, states that the bird's variation of colour is in no way an abnormality confined to one individual, as Mr. Ingram found all the coal-tits of the district where he made his discovery characterised in the same manner. A specimen has been examined by the Natural History Museum authorities, who have given the name *Parus Hibernicus* (Irish Tit). Mr. Ingram, who is a member of the British Ornithological Union, has already discovered several new species of birds in other parts of the world.

It will be observed that the description is quite sufficient to justify its recognition as a valid description. Witherby *et al.* (1938) also stated 'Author not clearly stated, either 'Natural History Authorities', Louis Wain, or Sir William Ingram.' That the identity of the author of the name be clear is not a requirement of the *International code for zoological nomenclature* (1999); Art. 50.1, dealing with apparent anonymity, permits internal evidence to be weighed to determine authorship. The article in the *Daily Mail* used the phrase 'on the authority of Sir William Ingram' and we consider that he must be viewed as author, having made the story available to the newspaper. Sir William was the father of Collingwood Ingram, the collector of the specimen named by Ogilvie-Grant. We therefore propose that priority be respected and that this taxon be credited to Sir William Ingram, whilst the appropriate citation for this taxon is as follows: *Parus ater hibernicus* W. Ingram, 1910 (Dec. 28), *Daily Mail*, p. 3, col. 3.

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The etymology of *Gallinago hardwickii* (J. E. Gray, 1831), Latham's Snipe

by Murray Lord & Bob Forsyth

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Who was the Hardwicke for whom *Gallinago hardwickii* was named? Several publications, including the official Australian checklist of 1926 (RAOU 1926) and Gotch (1981), state that the name *hardwickii* honoured Maj.-Gen. Thomas Hardwicke (c.1760–1835). Yet a similarly extensive list, including Higgins & Davies (1996), attribute the name to Charles Hardwicke of Tasmania.

Maj.-Gen. Thomas Hardwicke is well known for his early contributions to the zoology of the Indian subcontinent. Hardwicke's life and career have been the focus of several papers, including Kinnear (1925) and Dawson (1946). He was resident in India from at least 1778 until December 1823. Thomas Hardwicke's major zoological publication was *Illustrations of Indian zoology*, co-authored by J. E. Gray of the British Museum, who named the snipe *hardwickii*.

Charles Hardwicke was born in south Lincolnshire in 1780, and arrived in Australia in 1814. He was the nephew of Maj.-Gen. Thomas Hardwicke. As a reasonably prominent citizen in early Tasmania he has been the subject of a biography (Anderson 1978). Aside of his